



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/812,189

03/30/2004

Minna Myllymaki

089229.00150

3342

32294 7590 10/17/2008
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY L.L.P.
8000 TOWERS CRESCENT DRIVE
14TH FLOOR
VIENNA, VA 22182-6212

EXAMINER

HEIBER, SHANTELL LAKETA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2617

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/17/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/812,189	Applicant(s) MYLLYMAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner SHANTELL HEIBER	Art Unit 2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed on July 2, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. Regarding Claims 1, 19, 32 and 39, the applicant argues that *Chaney fails to teach or suggest "providing the network entity with control information indicating at least one limitation on simultaneous registrations by users belonging to the same subscription, said control information indicating a restriction on a number of users that can be simultaneously registered", as recited, in part, in independent claim 1 and similarly in independent claims 19, 32 and 39*. The examiner respectfully disagrees.
3. Chaney et al. discloses receiving at least one registration request for registration of a user requesting **(the invention also enables the registration of a service as a group of users)** a service in a network entity in a communication system, said service identified by the network entity as belonging to a subscription permitting the user to access the service **(by requesting the service, users can be added to the group and communicate with each other)**; providing the network entity with control information indicating at least one limitation on simultaneous registrations **(the owner may register as a service with the capability of a quiz game that can be played. The owner may specify certain conditions such as a minimum number of players who must register before the game and a maximum number of players who may join the game)** by users belonging to the same subscription **(users register as a group to a**

service), said control information indicating a restriction on a number of users that can be simultaneously registered **(a minimum of two and a maximum of four players who send text messaging back and forth)**; and controlling the registration based on the control information. **See paragraphs [0074] and [0075].**

4. **Regarding Claims 48-51,** Chaney et al. discloses all limitations of claims 1 and 39 as stated above, therefore, the combination of Chaney et al. and Herrero et al. discloses all of the elements of claims 48-51.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1-47 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Chaney et al. (Chaney), U.S. Publication No. 2003/0108000.

3. **Regarding Claims 1, 19, 32 and 39,** Chaney discloses a method, a system and an apparatus comprising: receiving at least one registration request for registration of a user requesting a service in a network entity in a communication system, said service identified by the network entity as belonging to a subscription permitting the user to access the service **(the owner of a game server may register as a service with the capability of establishing a group such as a quiz game)**; providing the network entity with control information indicating at least one limitation on simultaneous registrations by users belonging to the same subscription, said control information indicating a

restriction on a number of users that can be simultaneously registered; and controlling the registration based on the control information **(the owner may specify certain conditions such as a maximum number of players who may join the game);[0074] and [0075].**

4. **Regarding Claim 2**, Chaney discloses further comprising: determining that at least one user belongs to the same subscription. **[0077]**

5. **Regarding Claims 3, 20, 33 and 40**, Chaney discloses further comprising: checking whether at least one of said at least one limitation on simultaneous registrations would be infringed by allowing the registration. **[0075]-[0077]**

6. **Regarding Claims 4 and 31**, Chaney discloses further comprising: denying the registration when the checking shows that at least one of said at least one limitation regarding the simultaneous registrations would be infringed by allowing the registration. **[0075]-[0077]**

7. **Regarding Claims 5 and 31**, Chaney discloses further comprising: allowing the registration request when the checking shows that none of the at least one limitation on simultaneous registrations would be infringed by allowing the registration. **[0075]-[0077]**

8. **Regarding Claims 6 and 38**, Chaney discloses further comprising: indicating with the control information a number of the simultaneous user registrations allowed for the subscription. **[0075] and [0078]**

9. **Regarding Claim 7**, Chaney discloses further comprising: indicating with the control information a maximum number of the simultaneous user registrations allowed for the subscription. **[0075]**
10. **Regarding Claim 8**, Chaney discloses further comprising: indicating with the control information a limitation on a service type (**group service such as a game**) allowed for the simultaneous user registrations for the subscription. **[0075]**
11. **Regarding Claims 9, 25, 26 and 29**, Chaney discloses further comprising: storing the control information in a user information storage entity. **[0027]**
12. **Regarding Claims 10 and 27**, Chaney discloses wherein said storing comprises storing the control information in a home subscriber server. **[0027]**
13. **Regarding Claims 11 and 28**, Chaney discloses wherein the checking comprises checking in a user information storage entity. **[0027]-[0031]**
14. **Regarding Claim 12**, Chaney discloses further comprising: sending a request for user subscriber information from said network entity to the user information storage entity. **[0027]-[0031]**
15. **Regarding Claim 13**, Chaney discloses wherein the providing comprises providing the control information from the user information storage entity to said network entity. **[0027]-[0031]**
16. **Regarding Claims 14 and 21**, Chaney discloses wherein the checking comprises checking in the network entity. **[0027]-[0031]**
17. **Regarding Claims 15, 22, 34 and 41**, Chaney discloses wherein said receiving comprises receiving the registration request in at least one of a serving controller, an

interrogating controller, or an entity of an internet protocol multimedia core network subsystem. **[0026] and [0027]**

18. **Regarding Claims 16, 23, 35 and 42**, Chaney discloses wherein the receiving comprises receiving the registration request in the serving controller, and wherein the serving controller comprises a serving call session control function. **[0026] and [0027]**

19. **Regarding Claims 17, 24, 36 and 43**, Chaney discloses wherein said receiving comprises receiving the registration request in the interrogating controller, and wherein the interrogating controller comprises an interrogating call session control function.

[0026] and [0027]

20. **Regarding Claims 18, 37 and 44**, Chaney discloses further comprising: counting the simultaneous registrations of the subscribed users. **[0075]**

21. **Regarding Claim 30**, Chaney discloses wherein a serving controller comprises the storing unit. **[0027]**

22. **Regarding Claim 45**, Chaney discloses wherein contact information is assigned to the individual users to represent a network address of the corresponding user equipment used to register with the network entity. **[0044] and [0045]**

23. **Regarding Claim 46**, Chaney discloses wherein a plurality of users are registered to access at least one service under a single subscription registered with the network entity. **[0037]**

24. **Regarding Claim 47**, Chaney discloses wherein a subscriber is registered with the network entity as being subscribed to a plurality of subscriptions for services.

[0037]

25. **Regarding Claim 52**, Chaney discloses wherein the registration is controlled based on contact information assigned to the individual users. **[0044] and [0045]**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

26. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

27. Claims 48-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chaney in view of Herrero et al. (Herrero), U.S. Publication No. 2005/0009520.

28. **Regarding Claim 48**, Chaney discloses the apparatus as described above.

29. Chaney fails to disclose wherein at least one private user identity is registered with the network entity as representing a subscriber of a plurality of subscriptions for services.

30. In a similar field of endeavor, Herrero discloses a method and system for handling multiple registrations. Herrero further discloses wherein at least one private user identity is registered with the network entity as representing a subscriber of a plurality of subscriptions for services. **[0005]-[0015]**

31. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide a subscriber service to service users in a telecommunications network (Chaney) for supporting multiple registrations from the same user group requested on different terminals (Herrero).

32. **Regarding Claim 49**, Chaney discloses the apparatus as described above.

33. Chaney fails to disclose wherein a public user identity is used to represent a plurality of private user identities.

34. Herrero discloses wherein a public user identity is used to represent a plurality of private user identities. **[0005]-[0015]**

35. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide a subscriber service to service users in a telecommunications network (Chaney) for supporting multiple registrations from the same user group requested on different terminals (Herrero).

36. **Regarding Claim 50**, Chaney discloses the apparatus as described above.

37. Chaney fails to disclose wherein a private user identity is used to represent a plurality of public user identities.

38. Herrero discloses wherein a private user identity is used to represent a plurality of public user identities. **[0005]-[0015]**

39. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide a subscriber service to service users in a telecommunications network (Chaney) for supporting multiple registrations from the same user group requested on different terminals (Herrero).

40. **Regarding Claim 51**, Chaney discloses the apparatus as described above.

41. Chaney fails to disclose wherein a single public user identity is used to represent a plurality of users operating a corresponding plurality of user equipments which are simultaneously registered with the network entity under a single subscription registered with the network entity as the single public user identity.

42. Herrero discloses wherein a single public user identity is used to represent a plurality of users operating a corresponding plurality of user equipments which are simultaneously registered with the network entity under a single subscription registered with the network entity as the single public user identity. **[0005]-[0015]**

43. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide a subscriber service to service users in a telecommunications network (Chaney) for supporting multiple registrations from the same user group requested on different terminals (Herrero).

Conclusion

44. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHANTELL HEIBER whose telephone number is

Art Unit: 2617

(571)272-0886. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:30pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lester Kincaid can be reached on 571-272-7922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. H./
Examiner, Art Unit 2617
October 8, 2008

/Lester Kincaid/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617